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Probleme Economice.

MUST FULFILL RUMANIAN HARVEST AND REPAIR PLAN ON SCHEDULE

Agric Eng I. Hateganu

The Decision of 24 May established certain definite tasks for departments, for the socialist agricultural sector, and for the regional, rayon, and communal people's councils in the completion of repairs on time.

Better conditions have been established in 1951 for repairing and utilizing agricultural machinery required for the reaping and threshing campaigns.

Thus, the number of MTS (machine-tractor stations) has increased to 148, making it possible to reap by machine larger areas of collective farms, peasant associations and individual peasant holdings.

As a result of the consolidation of 1951. the number of state farms has decreased to 327 units from the 883 of 1948 and the 350 of 1950, but the area of each unit has increased from the average 300 hectares of 1950 to an average 31 high as 2,500 hectares. An extensive consolidation of the holdings of the state farms has taken place. The number of holdings subject to consolidation amounted to only 578 in contrast with the 6,300 of 1948.

The consolidation of state farms and their holdings formed them into large units, better integrated from an economic and organizational standpoint and better suited to the rational utilization of agricultural machinery.

Moreover, the new administration division of the RPR (Rumanian People's Republic) into regions and countries made it possible to use agricultural machinery more effectively, even in private agriculture.

As a result of these changes, the preliminaries of the reaping and threshing campaign were performed more rapidly and effectively than 1950.

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For example, in 1950, the former districts and rayons which now form the Arad region had by 10 June -- the final date set by the Decision of the Central Committee of the Rumanian Workers' Party and of the Council of Ministers of the HPR for the termination of repairs -- repaired only 40 percent of the agricultural machinery required for reaping. The repairs were not completed until 25 August, or 75 days behind schedule. Moreover, during 1950 the agricultural machinery was not always carefully checked. Consequently, many tractors which had been repaired at a cost sometimes reaching 300,000 lei per tractor did not perform efficiently during the reaping and threshing campaign.

At the present, the repair of all the agricultural machinery required for the reaping and threshing campaign is going on. This includes tractors, reaping machines, combines, mechanical rakes, threshing machines, trucks, etc.

The campaign for repairing agricultural machinery was more active in the state agricultural sector than in the private sector. Thus, by 11 June, nearly sall state farms had repaired their agricultural machinery. The repair campaign was led by state farms of Bacau, Bihor, Teleorman, and Bucharest, which, by that date, had fulfilled the plan 100 percert, having all the machinery and tractors in good working condition.

At some state farms, however the management was not always concerned with the fulfillment of the repair campaign.

Thus, by 14 June, the state farms of Arad had fulfilled the campaign only 92.8 percent for tractors, 93 percent for resping machines, and 75 percent for threshing machines; those of the Constants Trust, only 79 percent for threshing machines; and those of the Gorj Trust, only 86 percent for threshing machines and 79 percent for tractors.

Likewise, certain regional people's councils failed to pay proper attention to repairing agricultural machinery. Thus, by 14 June, only 86.1 percent of the motors had been repaired in the Valcea region, while in the Ialomita region, by the same date, repairs had been condited on only 87.3 percent of the total number of threshing machines, despite the fact that it was well known, especially by the responsible organs, that the repairing of machinery and tractors on schedule was essential to a successful reaping campaign and, consequently, for avoiding unnecessary losses.

In analyzing the achievements of the reaping campaign, it may be observed that during the summer of 1950, despite the fact that they suffered from a manpower shortage, the state farms performed their reaping more rapidly and efficiently than the private farms.

The following two tables give a clear picture of the tempo of the reaping campaign of 1950 both in state and private farms.

Table 1. Fulfillment of Reaping Plan at Different Dates (in percent)

								-	/	
Sector	17 Ju	<u>25 Jun</u>	2 Jul	9 Jul	16 Jul	23 Jul	30 Jul	6 Aug	13 Aug	20 Aug
State										
farms	-	12.7	47.7	49.8	71.1	85.0	90.7	94.6	98.9	99.0
Frivate	0.4	5.9	33.0	F8.7	75.3	86.7	91.8	94.2	96.6	97.1

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Table 2. Fulfillment of Plan by Periods in (percent)

Sector	17-25 Jun		3-9 <u>Jul</u>	10-16 Jul	17-23 <u>Jul</u>	24-30 Jul	31 Jul- 6 Aug	7-13 Aug	14-20 Aug
State									
farms	12.7	35.0	11.1	23.3	13.9	5•7	3•9	4.5	0.1
Private	5.5	27.1	25.7	16.6	11.4	5.1	2.4	2.4	0.7

From the analysis of the two tables, the following conclusions can be reached:

Despite the fact that reaping was begun in the private sector earlier than on state farms, it was completed later.

The reaping campaign was generally less intensive in the private sector than on the state farms. Reaping on state farms increased at a much greater rate than on private properties, except during two brief periods. From 3 to 9 July, private reaping was 25.7 percent greater than the previous year, while on state farms, only 11 percent more was achieved. From 14 to 20 August, private reaping was .7 percent greater than in the previous year; on state farms, it was only .1 percent greater.

On 2 July, 47.7 percent of the cultivated area of the state farms had been reaped, but only 33 percent of that of the private sector.

During a period of 6 days, 35 percent of the total cultivated area was reaped on the state farms, while in the private sector, only 27.1 percent of the cultivated area was reaped during the same period.

The more rapid execution of the threshing and reaping campaign by the state farms than by the private sector is the result of the state farms' more extensive use of agricultural machinery, application of Soviet working methods, and more rational organization of labor.

The state farms obtain better threshing results than does the private sector. Thus, on 20 August, 81.9 percent of the cultivated area was threshed on the private farms, but 93.8 percent of the cultivated area (11.9 percent more) has been threshed on the state farms.

The following table shows the manner in which threshing occurred in 1950:

Table 3. Ratio of Threshed Crop to Reaped Crop at Various Dates in 1950 (in percent)

Sector	<u>2 Jul</u>	16 Jul	30 Jul	13 Aug	20 Aug
State farms	10.6	33.1	64.7	75.6	93.8
Private	1.4	15.9	48.4	71.5	79.1

This would indicate that, in the case of the state farms only a short period elapsed between reaping and threshing, and that throughou; the campaign, the state farms were well ahead of the private sector.

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Stubble clearing must take place at the same time as the reaping and threshing of grains. The shorter the time between reaping and clearing, the more effective the clearing.

The Decision of the Central Committee of the Rumanian Workers' Party and of the Council of Ministers of the RPR concerning the care of cultivated fields, the timely preparation and execution of harvesting, and the execution of the reaping plans for 1951 orders that immediately upon reaping, and certainly not later than 2 or 3 days thereafter, the fields must be cleared of stubble.

Clearing, performed on time and under favorable conditions, guarantees success in the struggle sgainst weeds, facilitates the absorption of water by the soil, aids the fertilization of the soil through the decomposition of plants left over after reaping, and destroys many larvae and eggs (through exposure to the sun).

Moreover, from the viewpoint of the organization of labor, the prompt clearing of the soil of stubble saves much effort in deep plowing in the fall. The labor force required for the deep plowing in the fall on a field cleared of stubble is 25-30 percent less than that required for a field which has not been cleared.

Substantial increases in the harvest can be obtained by clearing the fields of stubble in accordance with agricultural principles. Such increases range from 200 to 800 kilograms per hectare of wheat, and over 1,000 kilograms per hectare of corn.

At the Baneasa experimental farm of the Bucharest Agrotechnic Institute, experiments were performed for determining the increase in harvest for fields cleared of stubble at different times.

Wheat sowed after peas yielded the following harvests (yield for clearing on 28 June equals 100):

Date of Clearing	Yield of Wheat	Percentage
28 Jun	(kg) 2,504	100
28 Jul 28 Aug	2,112 1,9 2 4	84 76
28 Sep.	1,504	60

In view of the advantages of clearing, the number of fields cleared of stubble has been increased every year through the efforts of the socialist agricultural enterprises and of the working peasantry. In 1947, the cleared area amounted to only 800,000 hectares. In 1948, this area increased to one million hectares, in 1949 to 2.5 million hectares, and in 1950 to 2,804,000 hectares.

The 1950 clearing undoubtecly contributed to the successful 1951 harvest. Nevertheless, according to reports received as of this date '15 July, 1951), it would appear that certain state organs do not pay sufficient attention to clearing. Thus, in the Bucharest region, where clearing is most advanced, only 34,000 of a total of 186,000 reaped hectares had been cleared of stubble as of 15 July.

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The executive committees of certain regional people's councils have been concerned almost exclusively with resping and have paid insufficient attention to clearing. Thus, in the Galati, Ialomita, and Teleorman regions, only 1.5 to 8 percent of the total reaped area was cleared of stubble during July.

It is undeniable that the 1951 bumper harvest has caused certain difficulties by requiring special efforts for the completion of reaping on time. These difficulties must be overcome, since the state farms as well as the collective farms, MTS personnel and the working peasantry must be seriously concerned with next year's harvest.

The correct planning of the use of machinery and many wer, as well as the proper supplying of fuels, spare parts, and various materials, is of the greatest importance for the completion of the reaping and threshing campaigns on time.

When the plan is prepared, special attention is paid to the fact that crops must be reaped, gathered, and bound on the same day. Threshing must be starte not later than 5 days after reaping has begun, and clearing must be started and later than 3 days after reaping. Nor must other agricultural operations required during this period (tilling, artificial pollination, etc.)

A comprehensive work plan, based on the quantity and daily working capacity of the available agricultural machinery, the available manpower, and on the duration of the optimum period for renping, must be prepared. The organization of labor in shifts brings about a fuller utilization of agricultural machinery and shortens the duration of the reaping, threshing, and stubble clearing campaign.

The most important task is the reaping and threshing of wheat, since it is cultivated over the largest areas. Normally, the reaping order is: colza, peas, fall barley, rye, fall wheat, oats, and spring wheat.

Even if the socialist sector (state farms and collective farms), begins reaping cereal grasses at the proper time, persuasion is needed to have reaping begun in the private sector.

Good results have been attained in areas where the regional, rayon, and communal people's councils and the agricultural organs have carefully detarmined the optimum period for reaping and have pursued a vigorous campaign for enlightening the peasantry, designed to induce them to begin reaping on tim. Thus, on 25 June 1951, 75 percent of the area planted with cereal grasses in Oltenita Rayon had already been reaped, while in Giurgiu Rayon (under similar climatic conditions), the reaping of wheat was only in its early stages.

In the Galati and Constants regions, as a result of the failure of the people's council to mobilize the necessary labor force, the reaping of wheat was delayed until the wheat had fully ripened, which resulted in a loss of grain.

The repair campaign has been more successful and generally better organized in 1951 than in 1950, not only at state farms but also at the MTS. Revertheless, repairs have been greatly delayed at certain machine and tractor stations.

Thus, in the Constanta region, on 2 June only nine out or 65 tractors of the Dorobantu MTS and 5 percent of those of the Chirnogeni MTS had been repaired.

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The fact that labor deficiencies were noted in the Constanta region, both in the socialist and in the private sector, would indicate that the regional, as well as the rayon and communal people's councils, have neglected the campaign and have failed to organize labor in a manner which would have overcome all difficulties.

Likewise, as late as 25 June, the threshing machines had not yet been repaired at the Nanov and Unwhet MTS (both in the Teleorman region). Such shortcomings have serious repercussions on the successful accomplishment of the reaping, threshing, gathering, and other campaigns.

The elimination of the errors and shortcomings observed during 1950 in the care of cultivated areas and in the reaping, threshing, and gathering campaigns must be a permanent concern both to socialist enterprises and to the executive committees of the regional, rayon and communal people's councils.

Advanced working methods are used on an increasingly higher scale. They include the coupling of reaping machines, rapid sheaving, the electrification of threshing floors, threshing according to the method of the Soviet mechanic, Nicholas Brediuc, the attaching of two threshing machines to one cractor, and other methods.

By attaching two threshing machines to one tractor, the traction is more effectively utilized. Although the efficiency of the threshing machines is reduced to only 80 percent of their potential, since such a combination of machinery is necessarily energy consuming, this method has, nevertheless, increased productivity of labor and lowered reaping costs. Moreover, as a consequence, several tractors formerly used for reaping became available for the performance of other agricultural labors such as stubble clearing. Experiments of the Institute of Agronomic Research have shown that the efficiency of two threshing machines attached to one tractor was 193 percent higher than that of a single machine, that the productivity of the individual laborer increased 29 percent, and that reaping costs per hectare decreased 25 percent in comparison with the costs of the period when only one threshing machine was used per tractor.

The joining of two threshing machines to one tractor thus reduced the reaping time nearly one half.

Adopting the Soviet method, the team composed of S. Maria, Cojocaru Maria, and Albisoara Eugenia at the Afumati State Farm (Dolj region) succeeded in binding 3,860 sheaves a day, mach member thereby exceeding the daily norms by more than 400 percent.

Similarly, favorable results were obtained by collective farms such as the "6 Martie" Collective (Stoicanesti-Olt region).

The electrification of threshing floors has been substantially expanded this year. There will be 592 threshing floors electrified during 1951, compared with 320 in 1950. The electrification of threshing floors reduces the time required for threshing, since work may also be done at night. As a result of the time required for threshing, losses resulting from rain and redents are avoided.

As a consequence of the electrification of 592 threshing floors, at least an equal number of tractors may be transferred from threshing to cleaning stubble. Considering that an IAR-23 tractor has a daily clearing norm of 20 hectares, 592 tractors will clear 11,840 hectares every day and this surface may be doubled if labor is organized in shifts.

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Moreover, the economy in fuel, manpower, and transportation required for delivering the fuel, the lower cost of the operation, and the virtually complete elimination of fire hazards in threshing make obvious the importance of the electrification of threshing floors.

The first results of this year's reaming and threships campaigns indicate that the production per hectare, - especially in the soc. List sector, - has been very large, often exceeding the planned production by 200-300 percent. Thus, the Rusanestii de Jos State Farm (Galati region) has obtained 3,600 kilograms of fall cats per hectare. Likewise, the "Micolae Balcescu" State Farm of Peris (Bucharest region) has obtained an average of 4,750 kilograms of fall cats per hectare on an area of 30 hectares.

Proper organization of labor through application of advanced Soviet methods, rational use of reaping and threshing machines and of transportation facilities, direction of the means of production to places where they are most needed (within trusts or units in the case of the state farms), increase of multilateral assistance to collective farms by the MTS, perform and of work of high caliber, and, finally, intensification of political agitation among the peasant masses by local agents of regional rayon, and communal state organs - will bring even faster gathering of this year's plentiful harvest than of last year's, when gathering was completed well sheed of schedule.

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